

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 DHA-05 PM-05 AID-05 IGA-02

L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4156

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON NICARAGUA IN AUGUST
5, 1977 CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED AUGUST 5 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD AND HAS READ SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENTS ON PP. S13914-16. THESE STATEMENTS REVEAL SOME FACTUAL MISCONCEPTIONS AND LACK OF INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF SENATOR KENNEDY. WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO ADDRESS THREE POINTS HERE.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY REFERS TO 5,000 M-16 RIFLES FOR GN FINANCED BY FY77 FMS-C. M-16 RIFLE CREDIT SALE WAS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND FINANCED BY FY76 FMS-C (NOT 77). IN A RELATED STATEMENT HE SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO DISBURSE PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MILITARY AID TO NICARAGUA. PERHAPS HE IS UNAWARE OF THE CURRENT FY77 SUSPENSION ON FMS-C.

3. THE REFERENCE TO JUSTICE IN NICARAGUA NOW BEING DISPENSED ALMOST SOLELY THROUGH THE MILITARY COURTS IS INCORRECT. THE MILITARY COURTS ONLY HANDLE SECURITY CASES WHICH ARE A SMALL FRACTION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

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4. REFERENCE TO 11 DIFFERENT MISSIONS THAT HAVE TRAVELED TO NICARAGUA TO URGE PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING. THE FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS REFER TO EMBASSY DEMARCHEs, PRINCIPALLY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR THEBERGE. HOWEVER, SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY

REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED DEATHS
AND DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED BY CATHOLIC CHURCH SOURCES INCLUDING
CAPUCHIN PRIESTS HAS DROPPED OFF DRAMATICALLY SINCE EARLY 1977.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF ABOVE COMMENTS
ARE USED TO BRIEF SENATOR KENNEDY.

RUBENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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